

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KHARTO 00878 161100Z

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /054 W

-----162032Z 056959 /56

R 161020Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3876

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 0878

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, SU

SUBJECT: JOSEPH LAGU NO LONGER TOP OFFICER IN SOUTH

1. SOUTHERN SUDAN'S TOP MILITARY FIGURE, MAJGEN JOSEPH LAGU, APPEARS TO HAVE RETIRED AS COMMANDER 1ST DIVISION, LOCATED IN SOUTH. LAGU REMAINS MEMBER SSU EXECUTIVE BUREAU AND POLITICAL SUPERVISOR EASTERN EQUATORIA PROVINCE, MAKING HIM OSTENSIBLY POLITICALLY SIGNIFICANT FIGURE, AND WE HAVE BEEN TOLD LAGU WISHES DEVOTE MORE TIME TO POLITICS.

2. THERE HAS BEEN EVIDENCE OF LAGU'S DECREASING INTEREST IN MILITARY AFFAIRS FOR SOME TIME. LAST OCTOBER HE WENT ON PERSONAL MISSION TO US TO BRING BROTHER, WHO HAD BEEN OUTSIDE COUNTRY SINCE CIVIL WAR, BACK TO SUDAN. HE HAD REPORTEDLY EXPRESSED DESIRE RETIRE AND THEN ON JANUARY 1 WAS INJURED IN AUTO ACCIDENT. HE SPENT SOME TIME RE-CUPERATING AT HOME OF EGYPTIAN MILITARY ATTACHE, AND LAGU'S HOBNOBBING WITH ARAB DIPLOMATS IN KHARTOUM HAS BEEN CRITICISED BY SOME SOUTHERNERS.

3. LAGU ATTENDED BUT DID NOT RPT NOT ADDRESS MARCH 3 UNITY DAY CELEBRATIONS AS MIGHT HAVE BEEN EXPECTED FROM EX-ANYANYA MILITARY LEADER. WE UNDERSTAND COMMANDER OF MALAKAL GARRISON, BG FREDERICK BRIAN  
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MAGOT DANGERU, SLATED TO REPLACE LAGU. MAGOT WAS CHIEF OF STAFF ANYANYA FORCES, BUT BOTH BEFORE AND AFTER CIVIL WAR HAD RESPECTED CAREER IN SUDAN ARMY.

4. COMMENT: COMBINATION OF FACTORS NOTED ABOVE, PERHAPS INCLUDING FACT THAT LAGU IS NOT A DINKA (AS WE SURMISE IS MAGOT), PROBABLY RESULTED IN GENERAL

AGREEMENT LAGU SHOULD RETIRE HIS COMMAND, ALTHOUGH  
WE UNDERSTAND INITIATIVE CAME FROM HIM. LAGU'S  
DEPARTURE WILL RESULT IN OPENING SOME OF KEY MILITARY  
POSITIONS IN SENSITIVE SOUTHERN REGION AT TIME NIMEIRI  
MAKING STRONG EFFORT IMPROVE ARMY AND TIGHTEN INTERNAL  
SECURITY. BREWER

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Executive Order:** GS  
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**TAGS:** PINT, MILI, SU, (LAGU, JOSEPH)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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